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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL		Attorney Docket No.	AP08 US	Total Pages	20
<i>First Named Inventor or Application Identifier</i>					
Kia Silverbrook					
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(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

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Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:
Please file the following enclosed patent application papers:

Applicant Name: Silverbrook Research Pty. Ltd.

Title: A video game console with integral printer device

Specification, Claims, and Abstract: Nr. of Sheets **10**

Declaration: Date Signed: **11/8/1999**

Drawing(s): Nr. of Sheets Enc.: Formal **10** Informal: _____

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Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(i), applicant claims priority of Aust. Provisional Patent Application Ser. NiPP7020 filed: **Nov 9 1998**

Return Receipt Postcard Addressed to Applicant.

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Very respectfully,

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Kja Silverbrook

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Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: <u>Silverbrook Research Pty. Ltd.</u> Docket Number (Optional): <u>AP08 US</u> Application or Patent No.: _____ Filed or Issued: <u>Nov 8, 1999</u> Title: <u>A video game console with integral printer device</u>	
I hereby state that I am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the owner of the small business concern identified below: <input type="checkbox"/> an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:	
NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN <u>Silverbrook Research Pty. Ltd.</u> ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN <u>393 Darling St. Balmain NSW 2041 Australia</u>	
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NAME OF PERSON SIGNING <u>Kia Silverbrook</u> TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER _____ ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING <u>393 Darling St. Balmain NSW 2041 Australia</u> SIGNATURE <u>[Signature]</u> DATE <u>6 November, 1999</u>	

A VIDEO GAME CONSOLE WITH INTEGRAL PRINTER DEVICE

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of video games and, more particularly, to a
5 video games console having an integral compact printer device.

Summary of the Invention

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a video game console device including:

10 means to receive detachable interactive program storage means for execution by said console;

processing and operating means for executing said interactive program stored on said detachable interactive program storage means, said program execution causing the generation of images for display on an image display means;

15 communication means to enable operational interaction from control devices during execution of said program; and

an integral printer apparatus including a printhead, ink supply unit, and print media feed means;

20 said printer apparatus being operatively associated with said processing and operating means to print out on to print media images relevant to said interactive program.

In the preferred form, the console is designed for use with a detachable controller module that includes a variety of interactive control devices such as joysticks and control buttons etc. This controller may communicate with the console by wireless communication means such as the new "Bluetooth" system or by cable or other suitable communication means.

25 Preferably, the integral printer apparatus includes an internal print media supply unit.

In the preferred form, the print media is in the form of sheets of paper or card and the print media supply unit and ink supply unit are jointly housed in a replaceable cartridge assembly.

In one particularly preferred form, the replaceable cartridge includes a print media feed roller device that interacts with a non-replaceable print media feed mechanism provided within the console.

Desirably, the interactive program is activated to print out images via the printer apparatus at certain predetermined positions in the program.

The printer apparatus preferably comprises an ink jet printer that is optionally in the form of a pagewidth array of ink ejection nozzles which eject ink by means of a series of actuators. Preferably, the actuators are thermal bend actuators.

In a preferred form, the detachable program storage means is in the form of a Digital Video Disk also known as a Digital Versatile Disk (DVD) executable by a DVD player. In other similarly preferred forms CD-ROMs and semiconductor memory cartridges can be used in place of DVDs with appropriate drives or connectors, hardware and software.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a first embodiment video game console according to the invention with detachable controller module, illustrating a printed card being ejected from the integral printer;

Fig. 2 is a front perspective view of the console comprising printer module and DVD module with the top controller module removed;

Fig. 3 is a rear perspective of the console shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a front view of the console shown in Figs. 2 and 3;

Fig. 5 is a side view of the console assembly shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is an exploded front perspective view of the console assembly shown in Figs. 2 to 5;

Fig. 7 is a front perspective view of the console with the printer module top cover removed;

Fig. 8 is an exploded perspective view of the printer apparatus including the printhead, print media feed mechanism and printhead ink distribution assembly but excluding the ink supply;

Fig. 9 is a front perspective view of the console showing the printer module in the raised position for insertion of the print media and ink supply cartridge; and

Fig. 10 is a schematic view of the assembly shown in Fig. 9 illustrating insertion of a DVD into the DVD player module.

5

Description of Preferred and Other Embodiments

In the illustrated preferred embodiment, there is provided a video game player which includes an integral printer which is able to print out, preferably on business card sized cards, information which enhances the interactivity of the video game.

10 Turning to the figures, there is shown a video game console 1 comprising a printer module 2 and Digital Video Disk (DVD) player module 3. Connected to the console is an optional detachable controller module 4 as shown in Fig. 1. The detachable controller module can communicate with the console by any suitable means including wireless systems such as “Bluetooth” or cable etc. and can be releasably secured to the console by 15 any suitable means including magnetic coupling 5 or mechanical interlocking.

15 The printer module 2 and DVD player module 3 are interconnected by means of connecting housing extensions 6 and 7 which hinge about pivots 8 as shown in Fig. 3. The lower connecting extension 7 preferably includes various input/output connectors and ports 9 for optionally connecting joy sticks and other interactive devices. A video outlet port is also provided for connection with standard video type devices as is common in the 20 art. Further ports can also be provided for an external power source or other devices such as sound systems to be interconnected to the console.

25 The DVD player module 3 is able to take standard DVD games disks 10 as is becoming popular in the industry. The DVD player is interconnected to a high end processor (not shown) which can be constructed along similar lines to standard high end video game processors or along the lines of that discussed in PCT Patent Application No. PCT/AU98/00544, the contents of which are specifically incorporated herein by cross reference. The processor in turn utilizes memory for standard video game functions and interacts with the print controller chip which is also preferably housed with the high end processor on PCB 11 within the printer module 2. The controller chip (also not shown) 30 can be structured along the lines set out in Australian provisional patent specification

entitled 'Image creation method and apparatus (ART 77)' filed 9 November, 1998, the contents of which are again incorporated by cross reference. Batteries for driving the console are preferably located in the base of the DVD player module as shown by arrow 12.

5 The printer module 2 is preferably constructed so as to simultaneously provide a closure for the DVD player module 3. This is achieved by hinging the printer unit to the DVD module as shown. The printer module 2 comprises a base molding 14 that is configured to fully enclose a DVD disk receiving compartment 15 formed in the upper surface of the DVD player module 3. The base molding 14 is further configured to define an integral chassis structure 16 adapted on its under side to receive and locate an ink and paper cartridge 18.

10

15 The upper surface of the chassis structure 16 is configured to support a printhead and ink distribution assembly 19, print media feed mechanism 20, and ink connecting hoses 21, the latter linking ink outlet nozzles 22 on the chassis with ink inlet nozzles 23 provided on the printhead and ink distribution assembly 19. The printer and DVD control PCB 10 is also supported on the chassis 16 and has flexible connections 26 extending therefrom to interconnect the DVD and printer control buttons 27 and 28 provided on a top cover molding 29.

20 Details of the printhead, ink distribution assembly and print media feed means are best illustrated in Fig. 8. The printhead, which is preferably in the form of a pagewidth ink jet printhead chip, is packaged with an ink distribution unit and printhead cover into a printhead module 30. This module 30 is supported on a printhead chassis molding 32, and further includes a printhead capping mechanism 33, paired drive rollers 34 and 35, stepper motor 36 and an associated gear box 37 that engages the drive rollers 34 and 35.

25 The preferred ink and paper cartridge is preferably in accordance with that described in the applicant's copending simultaneously filed application entitled "Ink and print media cartridge with integral pickup roller", the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. In the alternate embodiment illustrated in the accompanying drawings the ink and paper cartridge comprises a casing 40 defining an upper print media storage region 41 adapted to hold a stack of paper cards or sheets 42. A card dispensing outlet is shown at 30 43. The lower portion of the casing defines an ink supply region 45 which is separated

internally into four sections each of which connect with piercable ink supply outlets 46. On installation, these outlets 46 are pierced by formations in the underside of the base molding so that ink flows from the cartridge to the outlet nozzles on the chassis 16, via connecting hoses 21, to the printhead and ink distribution assembly 19.

5 In yet another embodiment, the printer unit and print media container can be snap fitted into the console and can be constructed in accordance with the principles as outlined in Australian provisional patent entitled 'Image creation method and apparatus (ART 79)' also filed by the present applicant, the contents of which are also hereby incorporated by cross reference.

10 In use, the console is connected to a video device and a DVD 48 is inserted into the DVD player module 3. Appropriate controllers are then selected. These may be the detachable controller module 1 as shown in Fig. 1, or alternatively other external interactive controllers. The printer can then be operated during execution of the program in the DVD either manually or automatically as discussed in more detail below.

15 It will be evident to those skilled in the art that the preferred embodiment provides for a video games system enabling print on demand cards. These cards can be utilized for a number of purposes. Firstly, the video game can, at certain predetermined levels, print out a series of 'brag cards'. These can provide a high resolution picture which can only be achieved at a certain point in the game. The brag cards can be personalised with the game 20 players name, score, chosen character, accumulated wealth or objects, etc. The cards could also include a photographic likeness where the video game arrangement includes an optional image sensor (not shown). With such an option, the brag cards could also be personalised with a photographic likeness mapping on to 3D characters etc.

The DVD player can be adapted to play standard DVD movies in addition to being 25 configured to read CD-ROMs so as to provide information from encyclopaedias, maps etc provided by other CD-ROMs or DVD disks. In this manner, images from DVD movies and information from such CD-ROM or DVD repositories can be printed out. It should be noted that while the preferred form uses a DVD player or drive, the interactive programs may be stored on CD-ROM or on semiconductor memory cartridges, the latter being 30 popularly used with pocket sized prior art video game devices.

Additionally, although the preferred embodiment described is designed for optional

use with non portable external display and control devices, the game storage medium, controls, game processor, screen, audio and printer may all be housed in the same housing, and this may be pocket sized if required.

Where educational software is provided, the printer can be utilized to print out
5 standard award certificates or diplomas upon reaching various levels. Such a system provides for an ideal incentive for children utilizing the system to become further involved in educational software running on the system. The utilization of the printer also allows parents to monitor children in the utilization of the device through, for example, the demanding of certain information or diploma certificates being printed out at various steps
10 before the device is able to be utilized as a game playing machine. The arrangement can be synergistic between the game playing and educational software, where the educational software prints out a code or clue for utilization by the user in playing the games. Of course, many other interactive uses can be provided.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or
15 modifications may be made to the present invention as shown without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. Accordingly, the present embodiment is to be considered in all respects to be illustrative and not restrictive.

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We Claim:

1. A video game console device including:

means to receive detachable interactive program storage means for execution by said

5 console;

processing and operating means for executing said interactive program stored on said detachable interactive program storage means, said program execution causing the generation of images for display on an image display means;

10 communication means to enable operational interaction from control devices during execution of said program; and

an integral printer apparatus including a printhead, ink supply unit, and print media feed means;

15 said printer apparatus being operatively associated with said processing and operating means to print out on to print media images relevant to said interactive program.

2. A video game console device according to claim 1 including an integral internal print media supply unit.

3. A video game console device according to claim 2, wherein said print media is in the 20 form of sheets of paper or card.

4. A video game console device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said images are printed out on substantially business card size sheets of paper or card.

25 5. A video game console device according to claim 2, wherein the print media and ink supply unit are housed in a replaceable cartridge assembly.

6. A video game console device according to claim 5, wherein said cartridge includes a print media feed roller device that interacts with a print media feed mechanism provided 30 within the console.

7. A video game console device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said interactive program is activated to print out images via said printer at certain predetermined positions in said program.

5 8. A video game console device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printhead comprises an ink jet printhead.

9. A video game console device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said ink jet printhead comprises a pagewidth array of ink ejection nozzles which eject ink by means of a series of
10 actuators.

10. A video game console device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said actuators are thermal bend actuators.

15 11. A video game console device according to claim 8, wherein said printhead is formed by a MEMS processing technique.

12. A video game console device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said detachable programs storage means comprises a Digital Video Disk (DVD) executable by a DVD
20 player module.

13. A video game console device according to claim 1, wherein said detachable program storage means comprises a CD-ROM.

25 14. A video game console device according to claim 1, wherein said detachable program storage means comprises a semiconductor memory cartridge.

15. A video game console device according to claim 1, wherein said communication means comprises a wireless communication system.

30 16. A video game console device according to claim 1, including a detachable controller

module incorporating a variety of interactive control devices.

17. A video game console device according to claim 15, wherein said controller module is releasably connected with said console by means of a magnetic coupling.

AP08

Abstract

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a video game console device including means to receive detachable interactive program storage 5 means for execution by the console, processing and operating means for executing the interactive program stored on the detachable interactive program storage means for delivery to a video output, communication means to enable operational interaction input from external control devices during execution of the program, an integral printer apparatus including a printhead, ink supply unit, and print media feed means, the printer 10 apparatus being operatively associated with the processing and operating means to print out images relevant to the interactive program.

In the preferred form, the console is designed for use with a detachable controller module that includes a variety of interactive control devices such as joysticks and control buttons. This controller may communicate with the console by wireless communication 15 means such as the new "Bluetooth" system or by cable or other suitable means.

Preferably, the integral printer apparatus includes an internal print media supply unit.

In the preferred form, the print media is in the form of sheets of paper or card and the print media supply unit and ink supply unit are jointly housed in a replaceable 20 cartridge assembly.

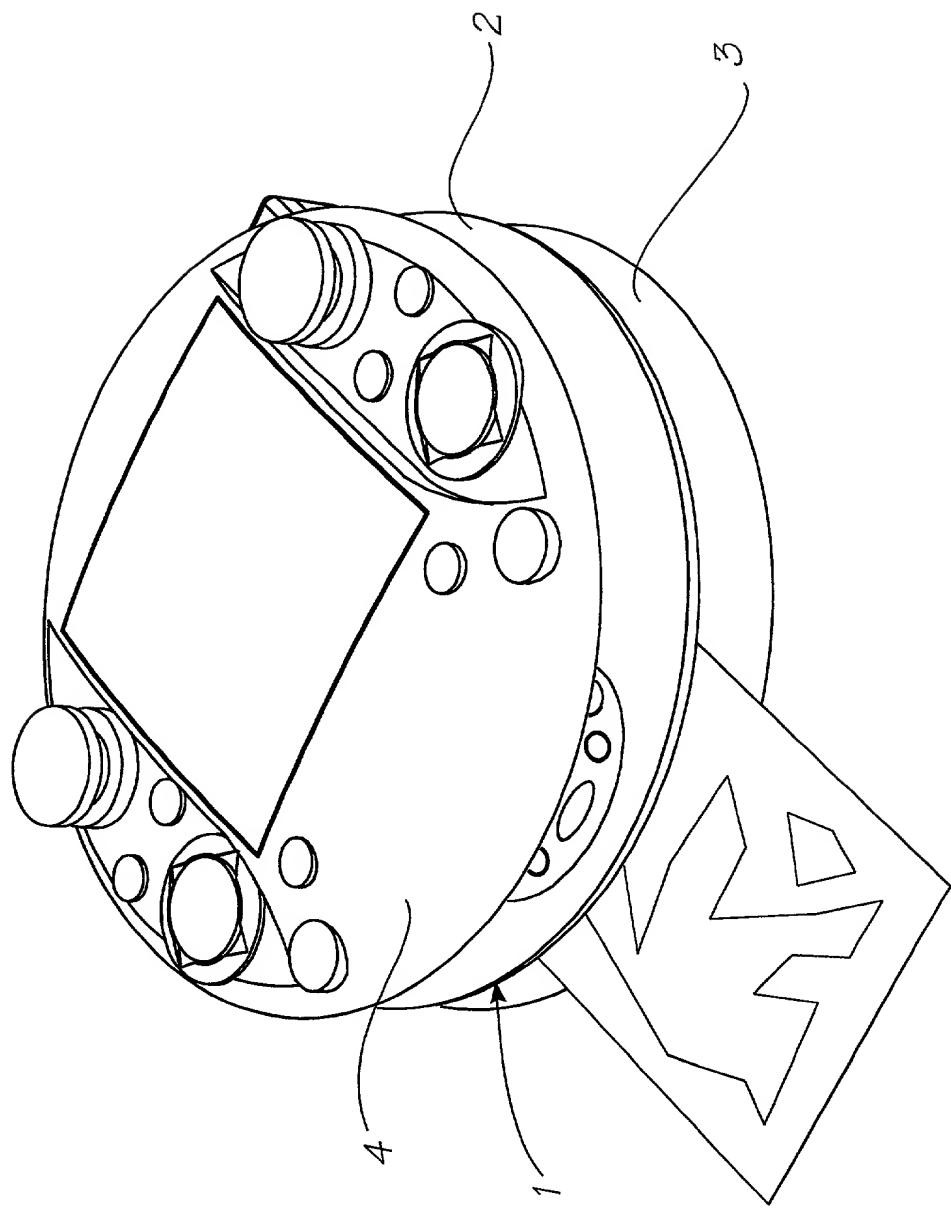


FIG. 1

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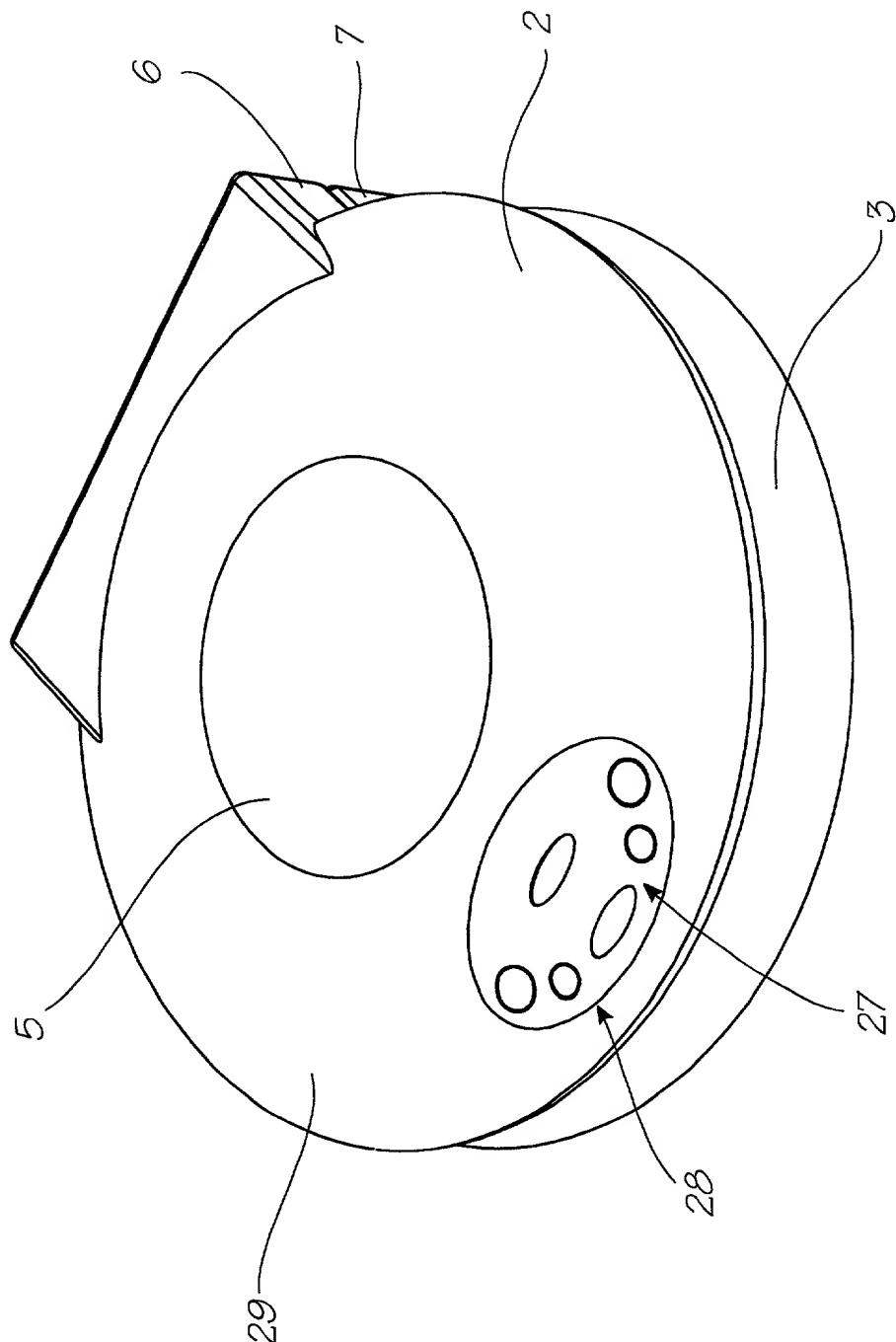


FIG. 2

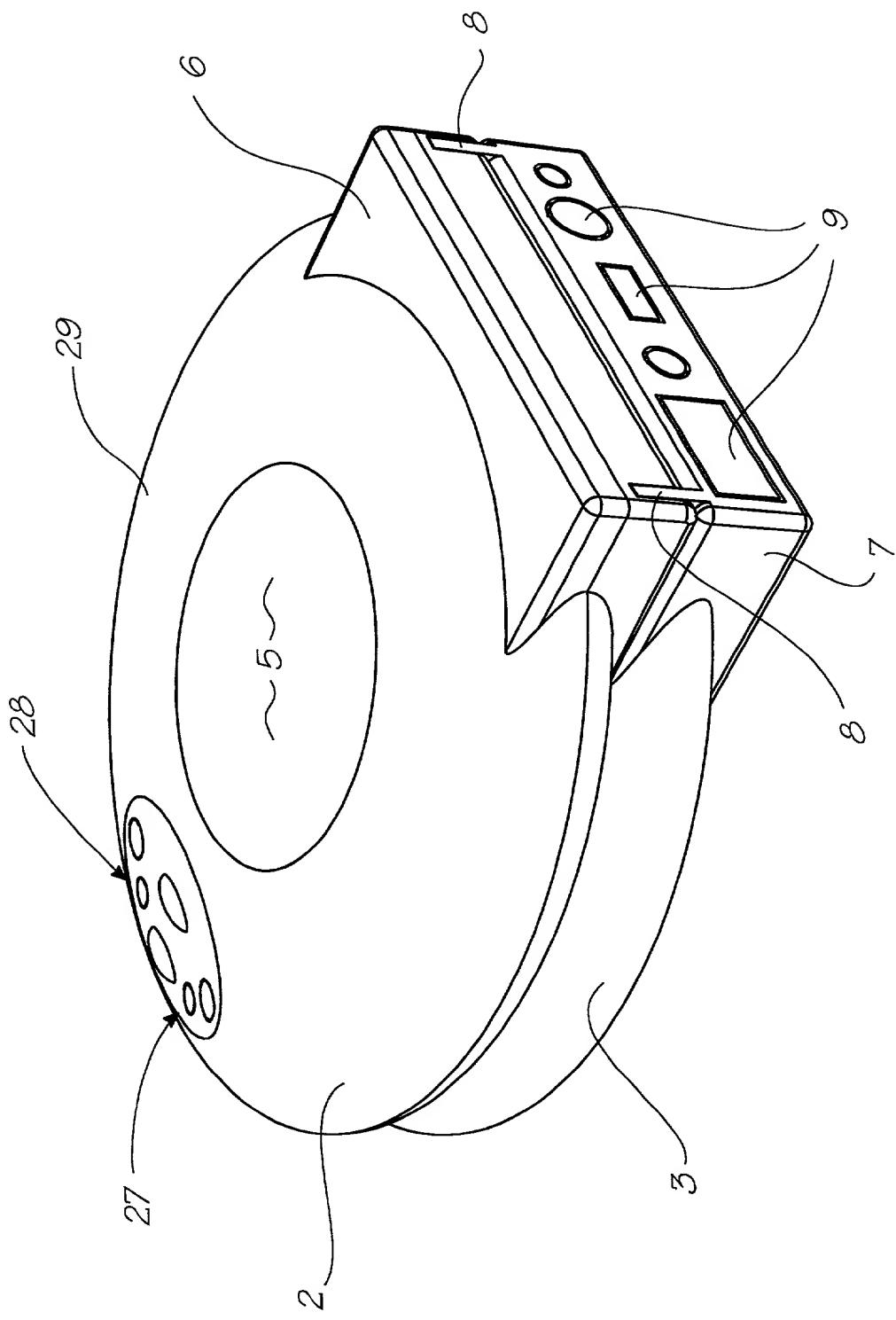


FIG. 3

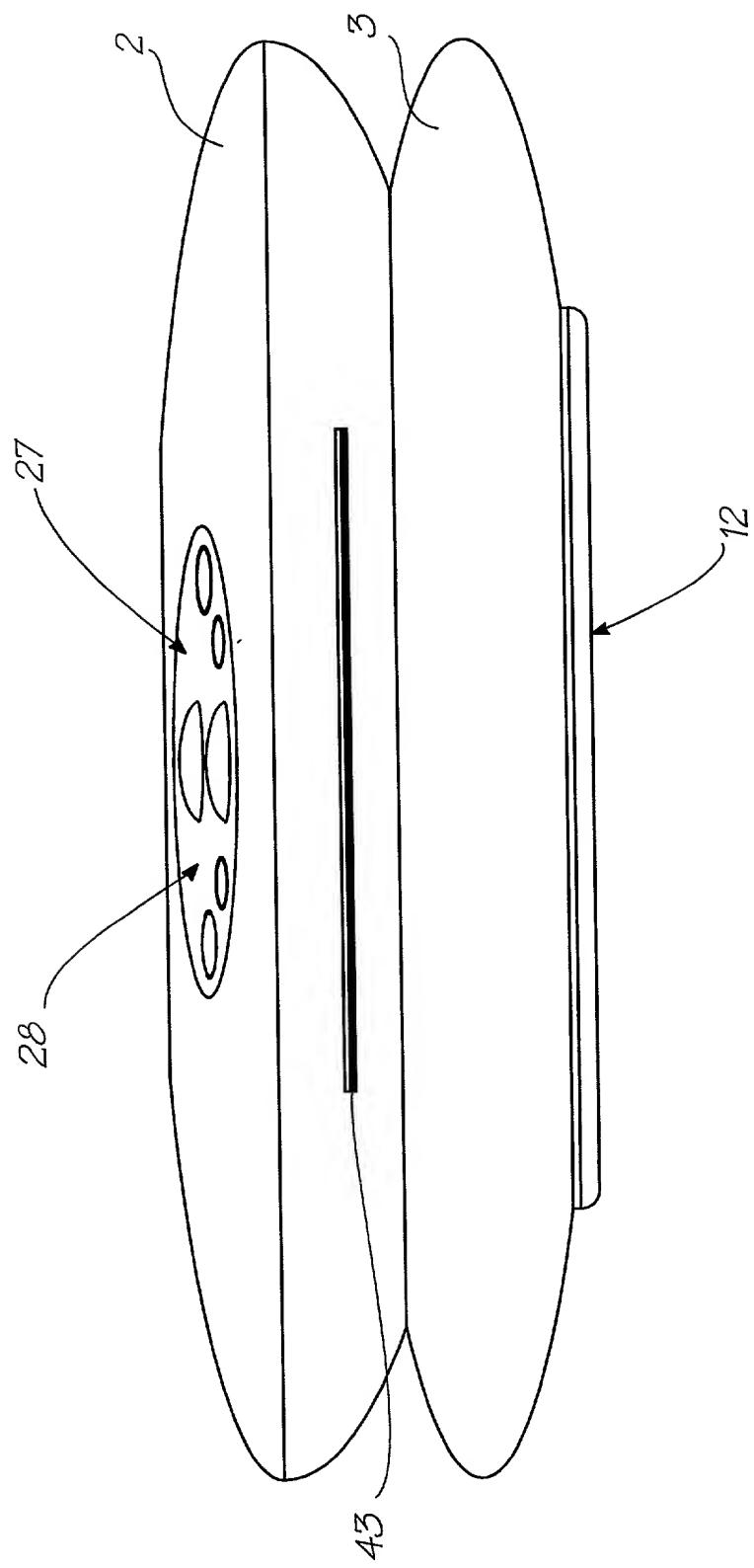


FIG. 4

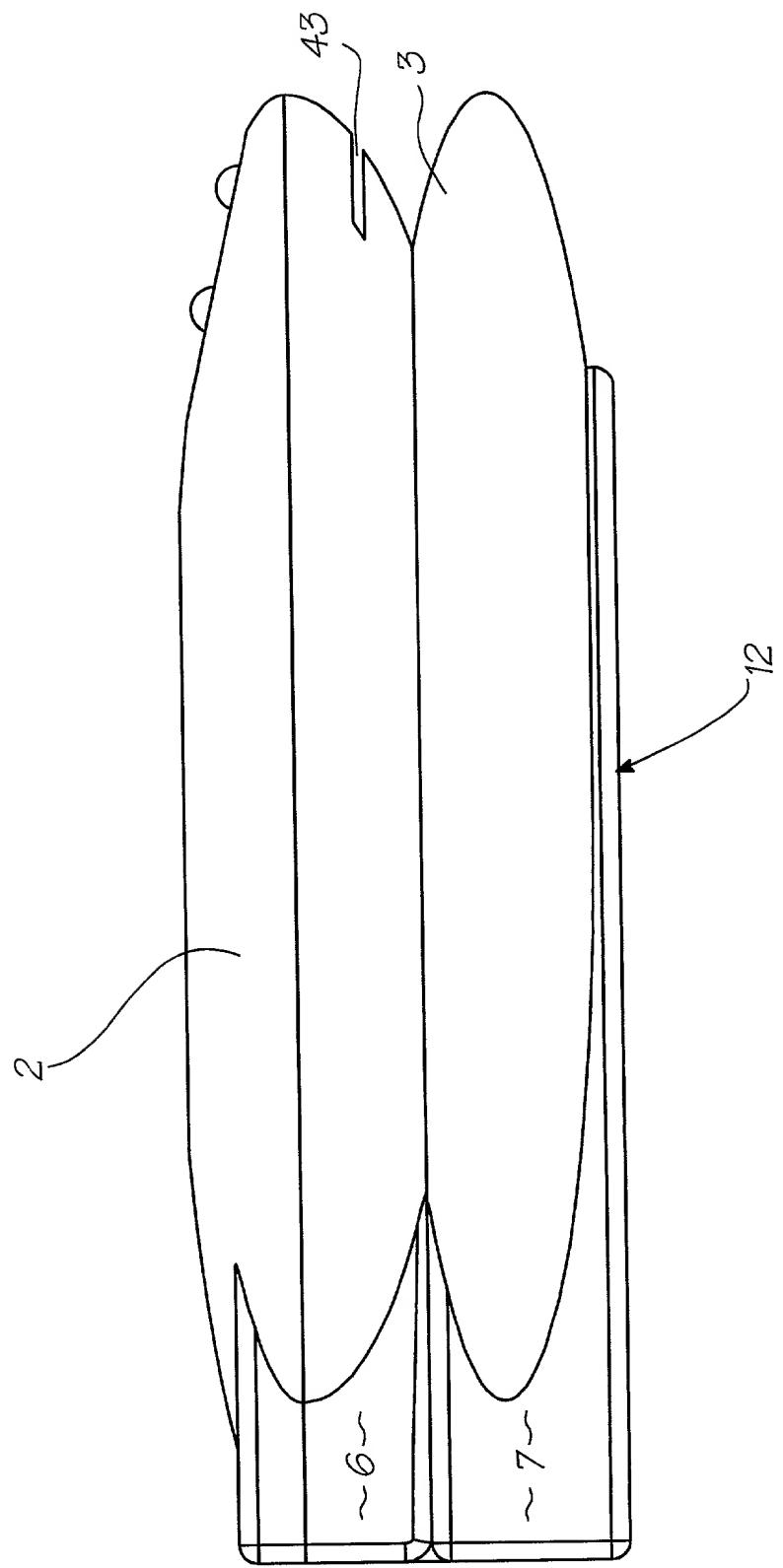


FIG. 5

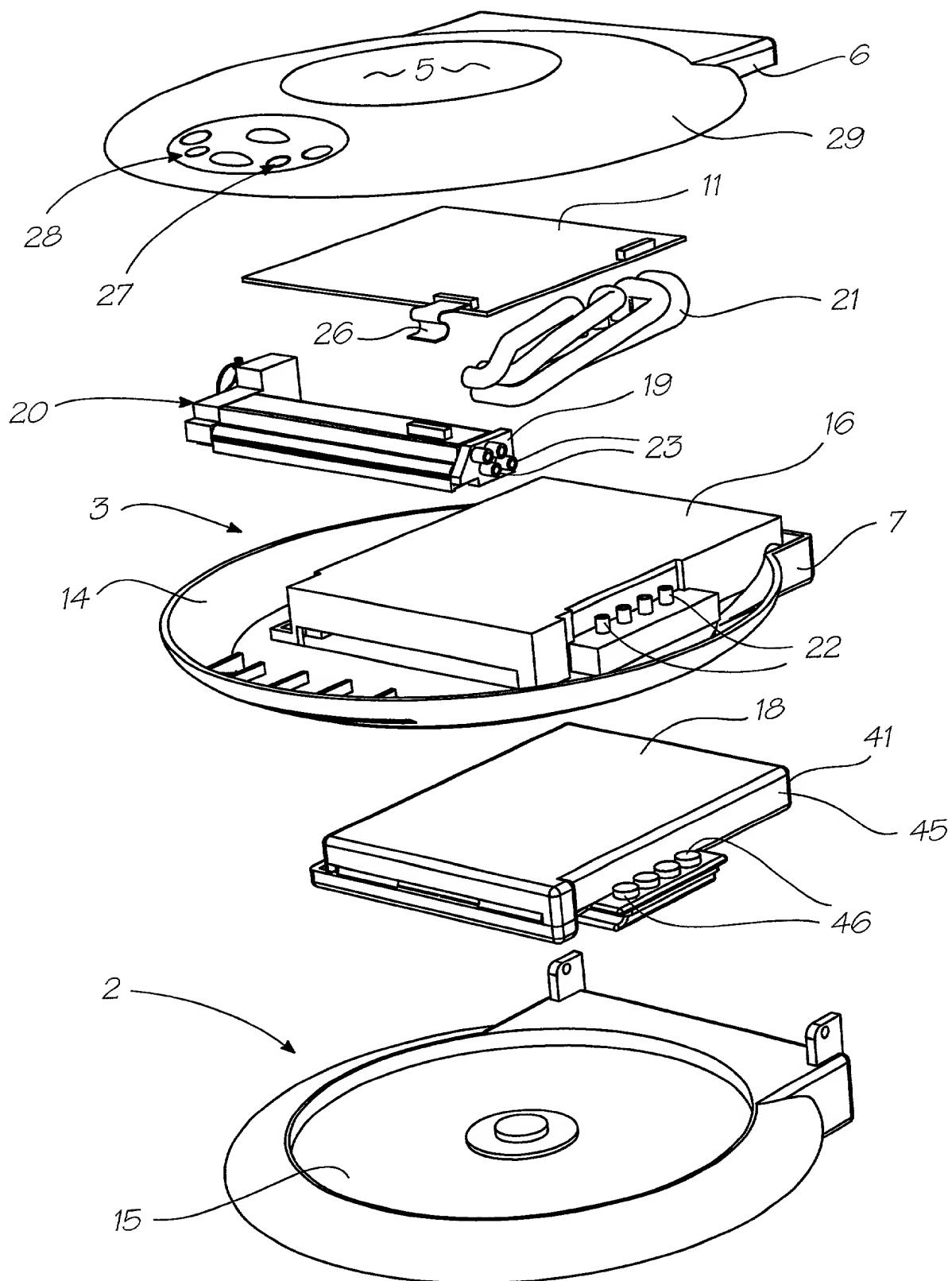


FIG. 6

16 17 14 20 19 21 26 42

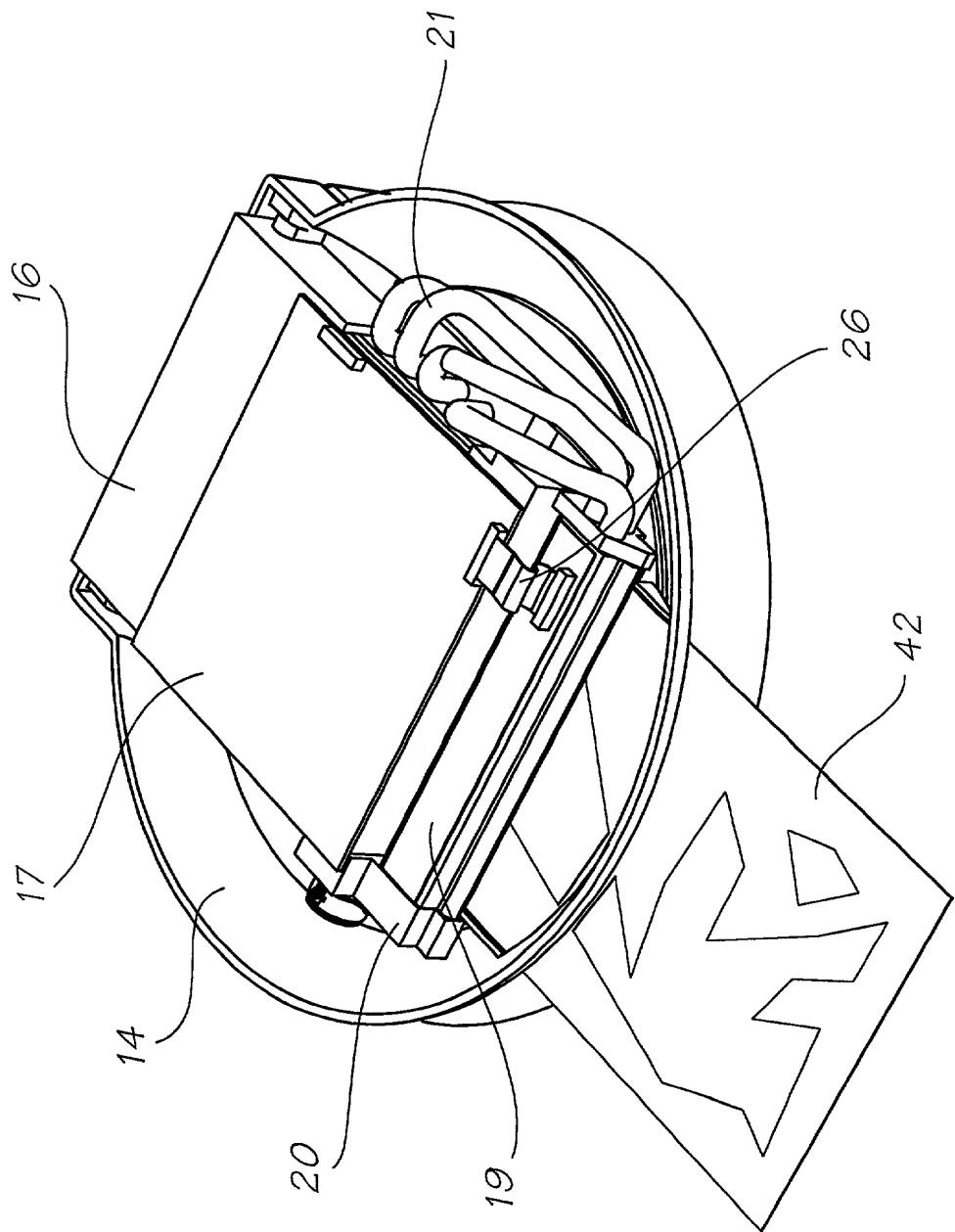


FIG. 7

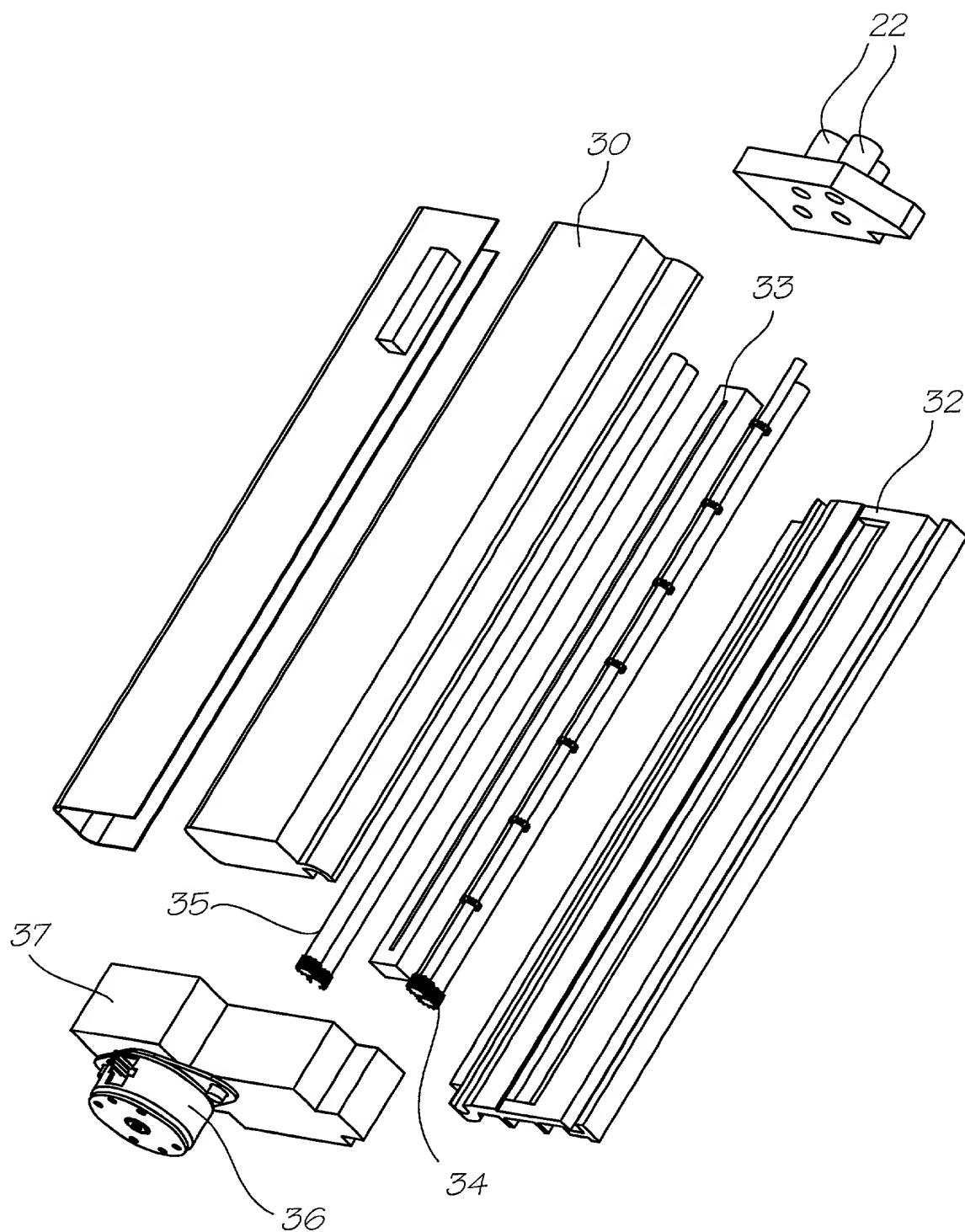
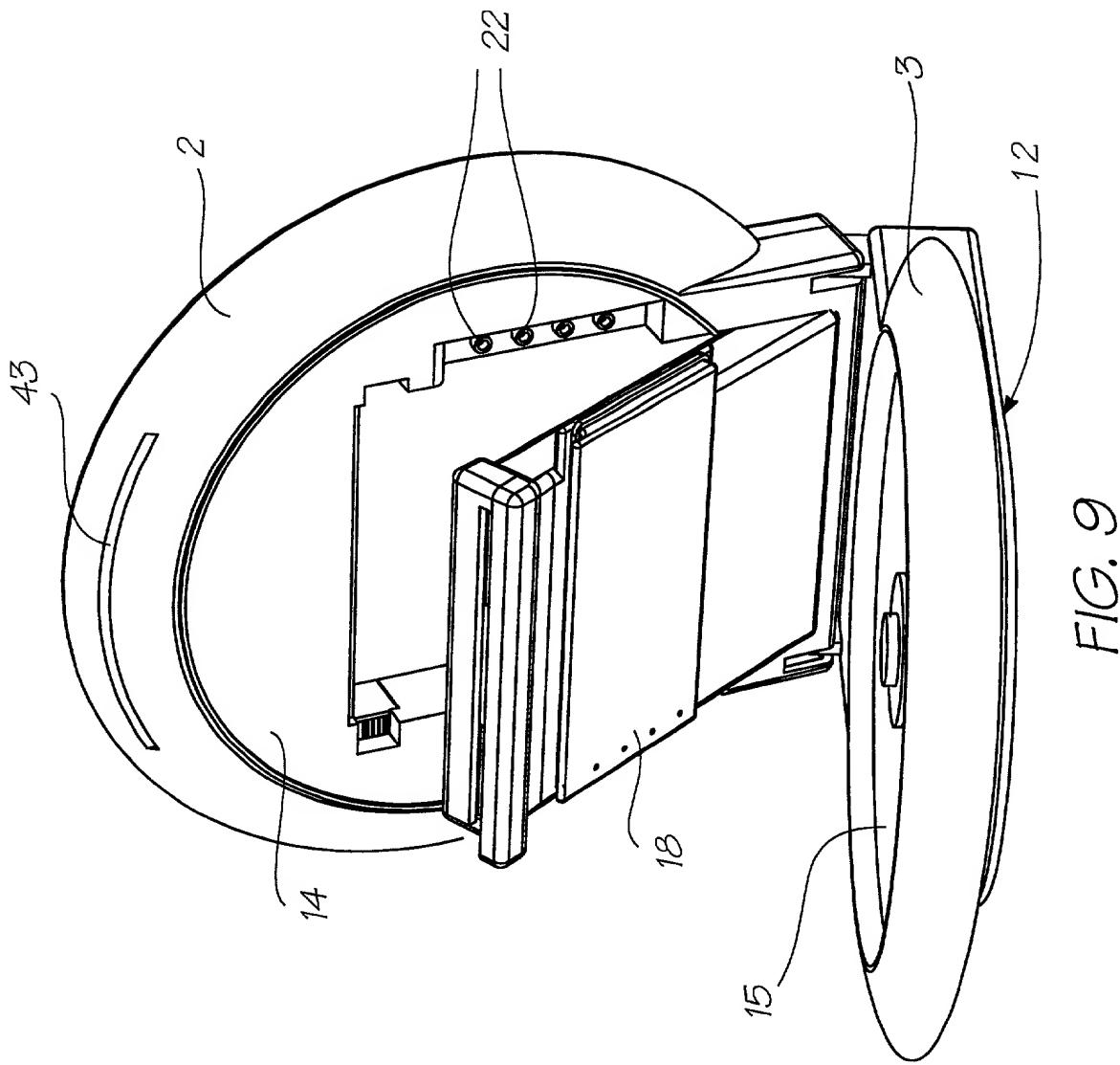
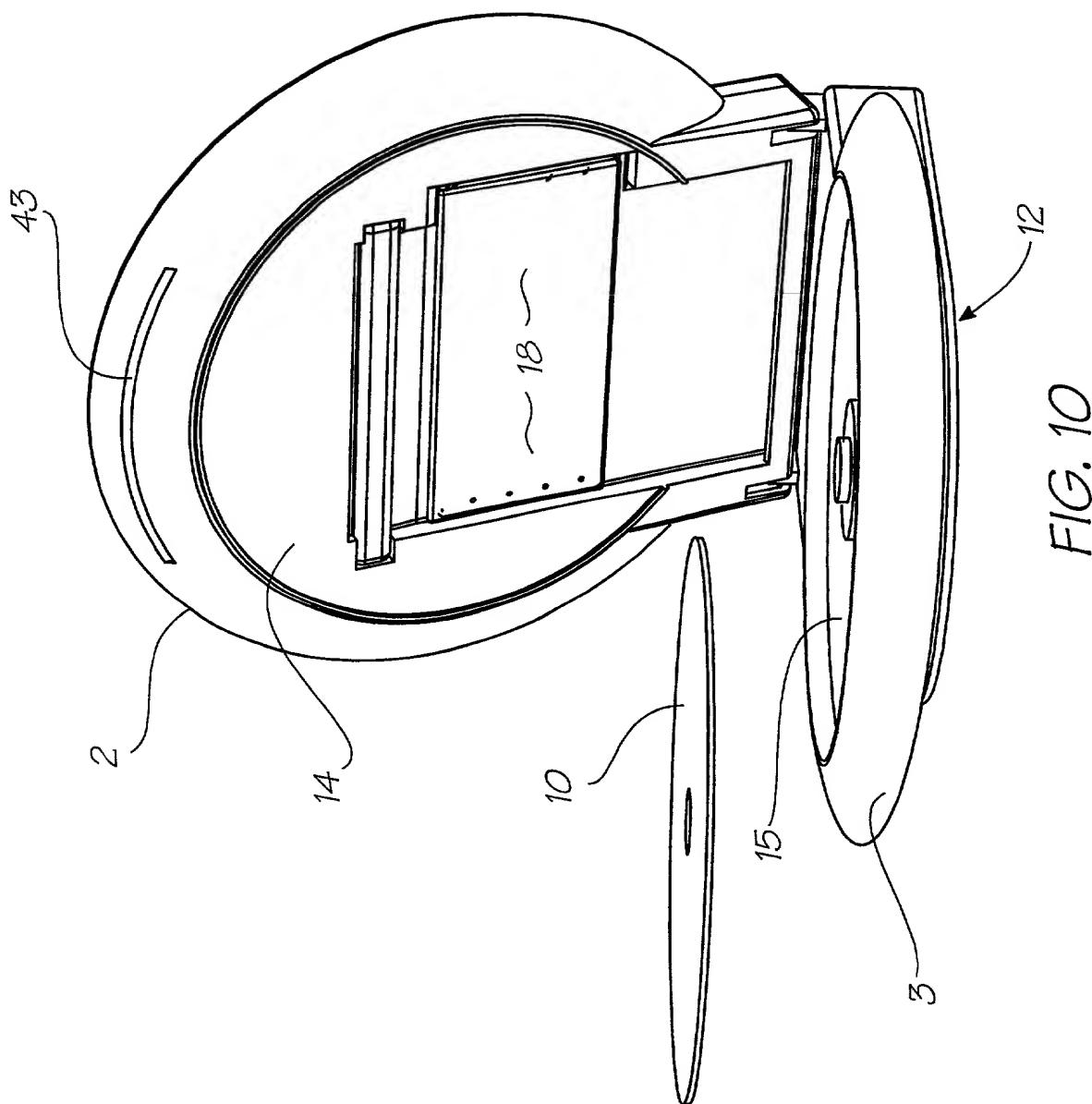


FIG. 8





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PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing **OR** Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	AP08US
First Named Inventor	Kia Silverbrook
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	/
Filing Date	Nov 8, 1999
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A video game console with integral printer device

the specification of which *(Title of the Invention)*

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(e) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?
			YES	NO
PP7020	Australia	11/09/1998	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Customer Number

OR

Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number

Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to: Customer Number or Bar Code Label OR Correspondence address below

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Address	Silverbrook Research Pty. Ltd.				
Address	393 Darling St.				
City	Balmain	State	NSW	ZIP	2041
Country	Australia	Telephone	+61 2 9818 6633		Fax +61 2 9818 6711

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:	<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor						
Given Name (first and middle if any)		Family Name or Surname					
Kia		Silverbrook					
Inventor's Signature	<i>Kia</i>					Date	6 Nov, 99
Residence: City	Balmain	State	NSW	Country	Australia	Citizenship	Australian
Post Office Address	393 Darling St						
Post Office Address							
City	Balmain	State	NSW	ZIP	2041	Country	Australia
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto							

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AP08US DECLARATION	ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>
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Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname					
Tobin Allen		King					
Inventor's Signature						Date	6 Nov, 99
Residence: City	Cremorne	State	NSW	Country	Australia	Citizenship	Australian
Post Office Address	Unit 12, 47-55 Milson Road						
Post Office Address							
City	Cremorne	State	NSW	ZIP	2090	Country	Australia
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname					
Inventor's Signature						Date	6 Nov, 99
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname					
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
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City		State		ZIP		Country	

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